Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0010 as follows:

--In the mid 1990's, second generation load-balancing solutions were released. These solutions employed a dedicated load balance director (LBD), such as Cisco Systems' LocalDirector. The director improves the DNS round robin load-balancing scheme by periodically testing the network port connections of each server in its group and directing responses to responsive servers. One such second generation solution is discussed in "Load Balancing: A Multifaceted Solution for Improving Server Availability" (1998 Cisco Systems, Inc., ~~<http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/cc/pd/cxsr/400/tech/lobal_wp.htm>~~) which is hereby incorporated by reference.--